

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A peripheral~~ An image forming device configured to be connected to a plurality of other image forming peripheral devices via a network, said image forming peripheral device comprising:

~~means for managing a management unit configured to manage the plurality of other image forming peripheral devices and said image forming peripheral device; and~~

~~means a selection unit, provided in said image forming peripheral device, for selecting configured to select a managing image forming peripheral device to manage the plurality of other image forming peripheral devices and said image forming peripheral device,~~

~~wherein the managing image forming peripheral device is selected by said means for selecting selection unit out of a group including the plurality of other image forming peripheral devices and said image forming peripheral device.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The image forming peripheral device of claim 1, further comprising:~~

~~a web server; and~~

~~means for setting a setting unit configured to set a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of the managing image forming peripheral device selected by said means for selecting selection unit.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The image forming peripheral device of claim 3, further comprising:

~~means for enabling said means for managing an enabling unit configured to enable said management unit~~ when the managing image forming peripheral device selected by said ~~means for selecting selection unit~~ is said image forming peripheral device.

5. (Currently Amended) The image forming peripheral device of claim 3, further comprising:

~~means for disabling said means for managing a disabling unit configured to disable said management unit~~ when the managing image forming peripheral device selected by said ~~means for selecting selection unit~~ is not said image forming peripheral device.

6. (Currently Amended) The image forming peripheral device of claim 3, wherein said ~~means for managing management unit~~ comprises:

~~means for receiving a receiving unit configured to receive~~ instructions from a user station connected to the network;

~~means for requesting and receiving a requesting unit configured to request and receive~~ information from the plurality of other image forming peripheral devices;

~~means for setting configurations~~ a configuration setting unit configured to set configurations for the plurality of other image forming peripheral devices; and

~~means for sending~~ a transmitting unit configured to transmit information to the user station.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) The image forming peripheral-device of claim 3, wherein said ~~means for selecting~~ selection unit comprises ~~means for comparing~~ comparing unit configured to compare a characteristic for each of the plurality of other image forming peripheral-devices and said image forming peripheral-device.

9. (Currently Amended) The image forming peripheral-device of claim 1, further comprising:

~~means for checking~~ a checking unit configured to check if another image forming peripheral-device is managing the plurality of other image forming peripheral-devices and said image forming peripheral-device.

10. (Currently Amended) The image forming peripheral-device of claim 9, further comprising:

~~means for disabling said means for managing~~ a disabling unit configured to disable the management unit when the another image forming peripheral-device is managing the plurality of other image forming peripheral-devices and said image forming peripheral device;

a web server; and

~~means for setting~~ a setting unit configured to set a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of the another image forming peripheral-device.

11. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of image forming peripheral-devices connected to a network,

wherein each image forming peripheral-device of said plurality of peripheral devices comprises:

~~means for managing~~ a management unit configured to manage said plurality of ~~image forming peripheral devices~~; and

~~means a selection unit~~, provided in each ~~image forming peripheral device~~, for ~~selecting~~ configured to select a managing ~~image forming peripheral device~~ to manage said plurality of ~~image forming peripheral devices~~,

wherein said managing ~~image forming peripheral device~~ is selected by said means for ~~selecting~~ ~~selection unit~~ out of a group including said plurality of ~~image forming peripheral devices~~, which includes ~~image forming peripheral devices~~ other than said ~~image forming peripheral device~~ ~~selecting said managing peripheral device~~.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein each ~~image forming peripheral device~~ further comprises:

a web server; and

~~means for setting~~ a ~~setting unit configured~~ a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of said managing ~~image forming peripheral device~~ selected by said ~~means for selecting~~ ~~selection unit~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein each ~~image forming peripheral device~~ further comprises:

~~means for checking~~ a ~~checking unit configured to check~~ which ~~image forming peripheral device~~ is managing said plurality of ~~image forming peripheral devices~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein each image forming peripheral device further comprises:

~~means for enabling~~ an enabling unit configured to enable said means for managing.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein each image forming peripheral device further comprises:

~~means for disabling~~ a disabling unit configured to disable said means for managing;

a web server; and

~~means for setting~~ a setting unit configured to set a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of said managing image forming peripheral device.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said ~~means for managing~~ management unit comprises:

~~means for requesting and receiving~~ a requesting unit configured to request and receive information from said plurality of image forming peripheral devices.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said ~~means for managing~~ management unit comprises:

~~means for receiving~~ a receiving unit configured to receive instructions from a user station connected to said network;

~~means for requesting and receiving~~ a requesting unit configured to request and receive information from said plurality of image forming peripheral devices;

~~means for setting configurations~~ a configuration setting unit configured to set configurations for said plurality of image forming peripheral devices; and

~~means for sending~~ a transmitting unit configured to transmit information to said user station.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein said ~~means for selecting~~ selection unit comprises ~~means for comparing~~ a comparing unit configured to compare a characteristic for each of said plurality of image forming peripheral devices.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a plurality of image forming peripheral devices connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

using ~~an image forming a peripheral~~ device of said plurality of image forming peripheral devices to select a managing image forming peripheral device to manage said plurality of image forming peripheral devices;

managing said plurality of image forming peripheral devices from said managing image forming peripheral device; and

setting default URLs of web servers for said image forming peripheral devices to correspond to a web server for said managing image forming peripheral device,

wherein said managing image forming peripheral device is selected out of a group including said plurality of image forming peripheral devices, which includes image forming peripheral devices other than said image forming peripheral device used to select said managing image forming peripheral device.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

disabling ~~managing means~~ a management unit of image forming peripheral devices
other than said managing image forming peripheral device.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing
from said managing image forming peripheral device comprises the step of:

receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing
from said managing ~~peripheral~~ image forming device comprises the step of:

requesting and receiving information from said plurality of image forming peripheral
devices.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing
from said managing image forming peripheral device comprises the steps of:

receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network;

requesting and receiving information from said plurality of image forming peripheral
devices;

setting configurations for said plurality of image forming peripheral devices; and

sending information to said user station.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of printing.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of selecting
comprises a step of comparing a characteristic for each of said plurality of image forming
~~peripheral devices~~.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a image forming peripheral device to manage a plurality of image forming peripheral devices connected to a network, the computer program code mechanism comprising:

a first computer code device configured to manage said plurality of image forming peripheral devices from a managing image forming peripheral device; and

a second computer code device configured to select said managing image forming peripheral device to manage said plurality of image forming peripheral devices,

wherein said managing image forming peripheral device is selected out of a group including said plurality of image forming peripheral devices, which includes image forming peripheral devices other than said image forming peripheral device used to select said managing image forming peripheral device.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 28, further comprising:

a second computer code device configured to check which image forming peripheral device is managing said plurality of image forming peripheral devices.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:

a third computer code device configured to enable said first computer code device.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:

a third computer code device configured to disable said first computer code device and to set a URL of a web server to correspond to a web server for said managing image forming peripheral device.

33. (Original) The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

a second computer code device configured to receive instructions from a user station connected to said network.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

a second computer code device configured to request and receive information from said plurality of image forming peripheral devices.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

a second computer code device configured to receive instructions from a user station connect to said network;

a third computer code device configured to request and receive information from said plurality of image forming peripheral devices;

a fourth computer code device configured to set configurations for said plurality of image forming peripheral devices; and

a fifth computer code device configured to send information to said user station.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said second computer code device comprises a third computer code device configured to compare a characteristic for each of said plurality of image forming peripheral devices.

37-40. (Canceled)

41 (Currently Amended). The ~~peripheral~~ image forming device of claim 1, wherein said ~~peripheral~~ image forming device is a printer, a multi-function peripheral, a digital copier, a fax machine, a copy machine, or a combination thereof.

42. (Currently Amended) The image forming peripheral device of claim 1, wherein said ~~means for selecting~~ selection unit comprises ~~means for comparing~~ a comparing unit configured to compare a characteristic for each of the plurality of other image forming peripheral devices and said image forming peripheral device, and wherein the characteristic is central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load.

43. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 11, wherein at least one ~~peripheral~~ image forming device of said plurality of ~~peripheral~~ image forming devices is a printer, a multi-function peripheral, a digital copier, a fax machine, a copy machine, or a combination thereof.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said ~~means for selecting~~ selection unit comprises ~~means for comparing~~ a comparing unit configured to compare a

characteristic for each of said plurality of image forming ~~peripheral~~ devices, and wherein the characteristic is central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load.

45. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 21, wherein said one ~~peripheral~~ image forming device is a printer, a multi-function peripheral, a digital copier, a fax machine, a copy machine, or a combination thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the characteristic is central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load.

47. (Currently Amended). The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said one ~~peripheral~~ image forming device is a printer, a multi-function peripheral, a digital copier, a fax machine, a copy machine, or a combination thereof.

48. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the characteristic is central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load.